THORNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
FOR 1910.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Dr Collins resigned his appointment as Medical Officer of Health in April last, and I was appointed in his place. The Council agreed that we should act jointly in preparing this Report, following the suggestions contained in a Memorandum issued by the Local Government Board.

Owing to the sale of the Estate of the Duke of Bedford to his Tenants and others many changes have occurred. Much work, for which the District Council was legally responsible, was carried out under the supervision of the Bedford Office.

The Water and Sewage Works have now been transferred to a body of Commissioners, who are carrying on the work on the same lines as hitherto.

The District is entirely Fenland, the village of Thorney being situated on slightly higher ground than the surrounding parts. It is both watered and drained artificially, and its population is entirely agricultural.

House Accommodation.—The District is exceptionally well off, the cottages (of brick and slate) are well built—and in the Fen are usually in blocks—with a back yard of asphalt, separating them from the outhouses, consisting of wash-house, privy, &c. The Council do not require the production of plans previous to new houses being erected. No action has been taken nor has been needed under parts I., II., III., of the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

A Report will shortly be presented to you shewing the result of the systematic inspection of the dwelling-houses.

Water Supply.—The Village is supplied with water which is taken from the River Nene, at the "Dog-in-a-Doublet;" flows for three miles along a canal to the village of Thorney. The water is filtered through gravel and charcoal, and is pumped into tanks situated in the Tower of the Works Yard, whence it flows along pipes to the various houses supplied. Another tank built on higher ground near the Village is pumped full when required to contain a temporary supply when the engine is not running.

The Water Supply to houses outside the Village is bad. The usual plan is to fix tanks (of 300 gallons capacity) to each cottage, and an additional supply is taken from neighbouring dykes. This condition of affairs is very unsatisfactory, but, owing to the nature of the District, no other source is available.

Boring operations have from time to time been carried out in the past by the Duke's authority, but no satisfactory supply was ever encountered. There are a few wells in the Village, which are seldom used.

Milk Supply.—Two milk carts go round the Village daily, and several people in the Village sell small quantities for the convenience of neighbours. The Provisions of the Dairies and Milkshops Order have not been adopted, but it is desirable that the Council should adopt this Order. In the Fen the cottagers are dependent upon the local farmers for any milk they require. Not being a District where much dairying is carried on, there is often much difficulty in obtaining milk, unfortunately even where there is sickness in the house.

Other Foodstuffs.—It has not been necessary to condemn any meat or other Foodstuffs during the year. The sanitary condition of the Bakehouses and Slaughter House is satisfactory.

Sewerage and Drainage.—In the Village the water carriage and pail systems are in use. A certain number of the cottages and all the better houses have water closets, and the sewerage from them is dealt with on a small farm, now the property of the Commissioners. The remaining cottages employ the pail system. A cart is sent round weekly to empty the pails, and a fresh supply of dry earth or ashes is left. In the cottages outside the Village the inhabitants are responsible for emptying their own pails in adjoining fields or in their gardens.

Many of the farmhouses have water closets, the contents being pumped on to fields at a reasonable distance from the house, suitable inspection chambers and traps being provided.

House Refuse in the Village is collected by a cart once weekly.

Lodgings.—No Bye-laws are in force regarding Lodgings. Most of the cottagers have lodgers, generally horsekeepers or labourers employed on the farms. Supervision is maintained to prevent overcrowding.

Schools.—There are two Schools in the Village, one for boys, the other for girls and infants. There are two other Schools in the Fen, viz. :—at Wrydecroft and at Knarr Fen. The sanitary condition of these Schools is good. Those in the Village take their water supply from the public sources, and their sewage empties into the sewers. In the Fen tanks for water and pails for excreta are provided.

The Isle of Ely County Council appoint a whole time Officer to undertake the Medical Inspection of School children.

Infectious Diseases.—Notification of the usual diseases in force :—

Hospital accommodation, for cases of Small Pox only, exists in conjunction with neighbouring authorities, in a building erected for that purpose, on the Peterborough Corporation Sewage Farm, situated within this District.

After the Medical Practitioner, attending a case of infectious disease, has certified it to be free from infectiveness, the rooms used during the illness are fumigated, and hitherto the Thorney Estate have cleaned down the walls, &c. There may be more difficulty in getting this properly done in the future.

During the past year one case of Erysipelas and one of Scarlet Fever have been notified.

In accordance with the Order received from the Local Government Board a supply of Antitoxin, for the use of Practitioners attending cases of Diphtheria within the District, has been obtained and is stored at my house. (H.C.)

Tuberculosis.—No special measures have been adopted. No case has been reported under the Poor Law Regulations. The Peterborough Workhouse Infirmary has a tent for treating cases of Tubercular Diseases of the Lungs.

Vital Statistics.—The usual Tables are appended, from which it will be seen that the estimated population is 1776.

Births 51, at a rate of 34·34 per 1000.

Deaths 21, at a rate of 11·83 per 1000 ; two of these were children under one year.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

JOHN N. COLLINS,

HAROLD CLAPHAM,

Medical Officer of Health,
Thorney Rural District Council.

Thorney,
February 3rd, 1911.

1910.

The Rural District Council

of Thorney.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH.

With Compliments.

To the Thurstonland Urban District Council.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1910.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the health, etc., of the District, for the year ending December, 1910.

Births.

Sixteen (16) births were recorded during the year, viz:—Males 7 and females 9. None were illegitimate. The birth rate, therefore, was 17·8 per thousand on a population estimated at 897.

Deaths.

During the year 115 deaths were recorded. Of the above, 105 were at Storthes Hall Asylum, and the remaining ten of the actual population of the District. This gives a death rate of 11·1 per thousand of the population of the District.

At Storthes Hall Asylum the deaths were, males 50 and females 55. In Thurstonland the deaths were 4 males and 6 females.

The deaths were at the following age periods:—

Under 1 year	4
1 year and under 5 years ..	1
25 years and under 65 years ..	1
65 years and upwards	4
	10

There was one death from suicide.

Infantile Mortality.

There were four deaths under one year, giving a very high rate of mortality, viz., 250 per thousand of births registered.

Registered Causes of Death.

1.	Bronchitis, etc.	1
2.	Broncho-Pneumonia	1
3.	Senile Decay	1
4.	Convulsions	2
5.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1
6.	Arteris Sclerosis	1
7.	Premature Birth	2
8.	Suicide	1
		10

Infectious Diseases.

During the year two cases were reported to me, viz., one of Scarlet Fever and one of Enteric Fever, otherwise the district has been very free from disease. There were several cases of Diarrhœa in March, April, and July.

Factory and Workshops Act.

(See Table attached).

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The Cowsheds are regularly inspected and are found very satisfactory. The improvements of a few years ago have solved all difficulties.

Water Supply.

Is just as it was, and inadequate in many places. I understand the Council have petitioned the Local Government Board for an enquiry, and in the near future it will be decided as to whether the Huddersfield Corporation will be asked to supply water, or a local supply can be obtained.

Nuisances.

Two nuisances were abated. Ten new closets were constructed, viz., six water closets, three tub closets, and one earth closet. There are no nuisances in hand at the end of the year requiring any special attention.

Slaughter House.

Regularly inspected, and is always very well kept and very clean.

Houses.

Eight new houses were built, and they are all satisfactory. I understand the Council have appointed a Building Surveyor to look after plans, etc., in connection with this important work, and good results should follow.

There are no houses unfit for habitation.

General Remarks.

Everything is very satisfactory in the district, and there has been no disease attributed to any defective sanitation.

Attached are copies of Table C., the Factory and Workshops Act, and Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. KENNEDY,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Knowle, Shepley,
near Huddersfield.